What is claimed is:

1. A recording apparatus comprising:

   a continuous recording unit operable to perform continuous recording and obtain broadcast contents broadcasted from N hours ago to a current time onto a recording medium; and

   a setting unit operable to set a protective attribute onto a part of the recording medium according to a user operation, wherein

   the broadcast contents are made up of a plurality of video units,

   the continuous recording unit performs the continuous recording by (i) receiving a broadcast wave to obtain a new video unit, and (ii) overwriting one of the video units with the new video unit, and

   the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute is protected against the overwriting performed by the continuous recording unit.

2. The recording apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising

   a pointer that indicates a location of writing in the recording medium, wherein

   the continuous recording unit performs the overwriting by (i) writing the new video unit to the location of writing

6   indicated by the pointer, and (ii) subsequently adding a size

7   of the new video unit to the pointer, and

8   the protection against the overwriting is made by, when

9   the pointer comes to a vicinity of the part having the protective

10 attribute, adding an offset to the pointer so that the pointer

11 skips this part.

1   3.   The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent

4   one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been

5   broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

6   the recording apparatus further comprises

7   a display unit operable to display a schedule table

8   of the plurality of broadcast programs, and

9   the user operation specifies a period during which the

10 one of the plurality of broadcast programs is being broadcasted.

1   4.   The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute corresponds to a period, the period being a part of

4   duration between N hours ago and the current time, and

5   the user operation is an input of a starting time and an

6   ending time of the period.

1   5.   The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

2   the user operation is an input of a starting time, and

3   the part of the recording medium having the protective

4   attribute stores therein two or more video units which correspond

5   to either (a) a predetermined length of time beginning at the

6   starting time or (b) a predetermined length of time into past

7   from the starting time.

1   6.   The recording apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

2   a loading unit operable to load a portable recording

3   medium; and

4   a copying unit operable to copy, onto the portable

5   recording medium, the part of the recording medium having the

6   protective attribute.

1   7.   The recording apparatus of Claim 6, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium keeps having the

3   protective attribute thereon until the part finishes being copied

4   onto the portable recording medium, at which time the protective

5   attribute gets cancelled.

1   8.   The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent

4   one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been

5   broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

6   the recording apparatus further comprises

7   a reproducing unit operable to reproduce each of

8   the video units recorded on the recording medium, and

9   the setting unit, when each of the plurality of broadcast

10   programs finishes being reproduced, inquires of the user whether

11   or not a period corresponding to each broadcast program should

12   be retained, and

13   the user operation is an affirmative reply in response

14   to the inquiry.

1   9.   The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent

4   one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been

5   broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

6   the recording apparatus further comprises

7   a reproducing unit operable to reproduce each of

8   the video units recorded on the recording medium, and

9   the user operation indicates that a period corresponding

10   to a broadcast program currently being reproduced should be

11   retained.

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1 10. A computer-readable program for having a computer execute

2 recording processing, comprising:

3   a continuous recording step of performing continuous

4 recording and obtaining broadcast contents broadcasted from N

5 *hours ago to a current time onto a recording medium; and*

6   a setting step of setting a protective attribute onto a

7 part of the recording medium according to a user operation,

8 wherein

9   the broadcast contents are made up of a plurality of video

10 units,

11   the continuous recording step performs the continuous

12 recording by (i) receiving a broadcast wave to obtain a new video

13 unit, and (ii) overwriting one of the video units with the new

14 video unit, and

15   the part of the recording medium having the protective

16 attribute is protected against the overwriting performed in the

17 continuous recording step.

1 11. The computer-readable program of Claim 10, further

2 comprising

3   a pointer that indicates a location of writing in the

4 recording medium, wherein

5   the continuous recording step performs the overwriting

6 by (i) writing the new video unit to the location of writing

7   indicated by the pointer, and (ii) subsequently adding a size

8   of the new video unit to the pointer, and

9   the protection against the overwriting is made by, when

10 the pointer comes to a vicinity of the part having the protective

11 attribute, adding an offset to the pointer so that the pointer

12 skips this part.

1   12.   The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent

4   one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been

5   broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

6   the computer-readable program further comprises

7   a display step of displaying a schedule table of

8   the plurality of broadcast programs, and

9   the user operation specifies a period during which the

10 one of the plurality of broadcast programs is being broadcasted.

1   13.   The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute corresponds to a period, the period being a part of

4   duration between N hours ago and the current time, and

5   the user operation is an input of a starting time and an

6   ending time of the period.

1   14.   The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

2   the user operation is an input of a starting time, and

3   the part of the recording medium having the protective

4   attribute stores therein two or more video units which correspond

5   to either (a) a predetermined length of time beginning at the

6   starting time or (b) a predetermined length of time into past

7   from the starting time.

1   15.   The computer-readable program of Claim 10, further

2   comprising:

3   a loading step of loading a portable recording medium;

4   and

5   a copying step of copying, onto the portable recording

6   medium, the part of the recording medium having the protective

7   attribute.

1   16.   The computer-readable program of Claim 15, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium keeps having the

3   protective attribute thereon until the part finishes being copied

4   onto the portable recording medium, at which time the protective

5   attribute gets cancelled.

1   17.   The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent

4   one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been

5   broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

6   the computer-readable program further comprises

7   a reproducing step of reproducing each of the video

8   units recorded on the recording medium, and

9   the setting step, when each of the plurality of broadcast

10 programs finishes being reproduced, inquires of the user whether

11 or not a period corresponding to each broadcast program should

12 be retained, and

13   the user operation is an affirmative reply in response

14 to the inquiry.

1   18.   The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

2   the part of the recording medium having the protective

3   attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent

4   one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been

5   broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

6   the computer-readable program further comprises

7   a reproducing step of reproducing each of the video

8   units recorded on the recording medium, and

9   the user operation indicates that a period corresponding

10 to a broadcast program currently being reproduced should be

11 retained.

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